

Jackie Lacey

District Attorney



The Honorable Jackie Lacey Los Angeles County District Attorney

District Attorney Jackie Lacey has spent most of her professional life as a prosecutor, manager and executive in the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. On Dec. 3, 2012, she was sworn in as the 42nd District Attorney.

Her top priority is keeping the streets of Los Angeles County safe from violent and dangerous criminals. She is committed to safeguarding our children from human sex traffickers, our seniors from financial elder abuse and our communities from environmental crimes that threaten our health and our livelihood.

District Attorney Lacey has worked with business leaders on how best to protect consumers from computer network intrusions that jeopardize our

bank accounts and credit ratings. She also remains committed to prosecuting government officials who violate the public's trust.

A Los Angeles native and graduate of the University of Southern California Law School, District Attorney Lacey leads a staff of roughly 1,000 lawyers, nearly 300 investigators and about 800 support staff employees. Her office prosecuted more than 71,000 felonies and nearly 112,000 misdemeanors in 2014.

She is the first woman and first African-American to serve as Los Angeles County District Attorney since the office was established in 1850.

District Attorney Lacey created the Human Trafficking Unit that focuses on putting pimps behind bars and helping their victims. In recent years, gang members have been responsible for the proliferation of underage prostitution in Los Angeles County – a criminal enterprise that can be more lucrative than the sales of drugs or guns.

She launched the Elder Financial Abuse Outreach Campaign to alert seniors about scams that target them and their assets. The effort was honored in 2014 with the Los Angeles County Quality and Productivity Commission's Top Ten Award.

That same year, District Attorney Lacey established the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and Environmental Crimes Rollout Team, which dispatches specially trained prosecutors and

investigators to the scene of environmental threats and industrial accidents involving occupational deaths or serious injuries.

As founder and chair of the Los Angeles County Criminal Justice Mental Health Project, District Attorney Lacey is leading a multidisciplinary effort to develop a comprehensive mental health diversion program. An estimated 17 percent of the inmates in county jails are mentally ill. They often are unable to assist in their legal defense because of mental illness, resulting in longer – and more costly – incarceration and delayed justice.

District Attorney Lacey also has worked to reduce overcrowding in jails and prisons. She has encouraged her prosecutors to route nonviolent offenders into alternative sentencing courts, in which defendants agree to participate in evidence-based treatment programs instead of incarceration. These defendants are less likely to re-offend than those in state prison.

She is actively involved in the implementation of legislative and voter action, such as the Public Safety Realignment Act and the Three Strikes Resentencing Law. She successfully sought legislative reforms, including passage of a new law that gives counties a stronger voice when judges are considering the conditional release of sexually violent predators.

District Attorney Lacey joined the office in 1986. She won national attention for her successful prosecution of the county's first race-based hate crime murder.

She is active in her profession. District Attorney Lacey is a member of the National District Attorneys Asso-

ciation, the California District Attorneys Association and the National Black Prosecutors Association. She serves on the boards of the Los Angeles County Prosecutions Association and the Peace Officers Association of Los Angeles County.

District Attorney Lacey has received many honors, including the Trailblazer Award from the National Black Prosecutors Association; the Benito Juarez Attorney of the Year Award from the Mexican American Bar Association; the Distinguished Professional in Public Service Award from the University of California, Irvine; the Silver Achievement Award from the YWCA of Greater Los Angeles; and the Ernestine Stahlhut Award from the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles.

For five years, District Attorney Lacey dedicated one lunch hour a week to teaching fifth-graders at Lorena Street Elementary School in Boyle Heights about the criminal justice system. As District Attorney, she has led an effort to share Project LEAD, the office's law-related education program, with other prosecutorial agencies across the country.

A graduate of the University of California, Irvine, and Dorsey High School, District Attorney Lacey began her legal career as an associate in a small civil law firm. She then became a trial deputy in the Santa Monica City Attorney's Office.

District Attorney Lacey and her husband, David, have two adult children.